

Internet Is Mine, Not the Corporations or Govt

I understand why the corporations and the government would like to remake the Internet in the image of American government and business trends generally, which are quite corporate and quite favoring governmental takeover and control.

However, the Internet is already built, it is already used, and for the most part, it is already used and used for the most part freely and tax free and pretty much "like water from the tap" if you will allow me that simile.

In fact, I use it for hours daily, both for entertainment, and for business, personal needs (job search, research, current events, subscriptions and reading various sources and magazines online, e-mail, and business or entrepreneurial pursuits.)

Why should such a fundamental Citizen empowering tool and utility be suborned, tinkered with, taxed, supervised, remade, destroyed, or licensed by either the corporations or the government?

This Internet is my right and owned by me as an American citizen and as a user of it from way back, when there was only TCP/IP. In fact, I have marveled at the development of computing and networking my entire adult lifespan (I am now 53) and remember in college at the University of Illinois, learning lessons on PLATO. Happily, I found PLATO online just last week, the online learning system having been privatized into a Company.

Also, I communicate quite often via the Internet. I have sent out at least a dozen messages today, and I have received many more.

I discovered a brand new and very talented singer, now in America, named Utada Hikaru from Japan, quite by accident. However, I have been able to promote her and her music to other music aficionados and to not a few media outlets (yes, radio stations in some cases) and I have even been able to communicate with this talented singer directly, myself, on several occasions, both through our mutual friendship now on MySpace webpages, and through my membership in her online Far East website for her fans, UtadaNet.com. This has been nothing less than fantastic.

Why would you want to give the same kind of control of the Internet, that we currently have by the recording industry in America (recent restrictions on Internet radio) which terribly limits so many aspects of variety, of artistry, of individual empowerment and communication, to the same corporations or types of entities, that have literally "dumbed down" and hemmed in and really destroyed a free press, which is so essential to our traditions of American democracy and to our traditions as a Republic?

I have just discovered the Huffington Post by Ariana Huffington, which daily provides me with much needed news of the day and the perspective on current world events that I crave. I could give many other examples. Who wants this great success and tool of American citizens such as myself shut down, tinkered with, modified, taxed, rebuilt, supervised, or otherwise ruined? Not me.

When I worked four years at MIT, my offices were right around the corner from Tim Berners Lee's W3C offices. This is the man and the organization that helped to build the Internet as we know it today.

It has been an astounding success. Keep your mitts off of it, is my view. You will ruin it, surely, and ruin the benefits I accrue from it, in my life, daily, for hours at a time.

My theory is based on my understanding that societies try to impose social constructs on new technologies. What we are experiencing, is a corporate and big government "blow back" against the incredibly empowering, enabling, and communications enhancing aspects of the Internet as I use it today. It is really a great balance to what has happened in America to undermine our American traditions and to weaken and circumscribe my autonomy and powers as an individual, a citizen, and an actor on the world stage of events.

I could go into so many details of the tremendous successes of my use of the Internet, that it would astound you. I found several of my recent jobs by way of the Internet. In fact, many if not most companies only accept internet applications nowadays. Are you going to mandate or limit that area of endeavor? I have used publicly available computers and the internet, free of charge, when my home computers were not functioning.

Honestly, your recent FCC imposition on Internet radio was frowned on by me, but I did not write to the FCC, because Windows Media Player and that other major internet radio player software, were much too game-playing with digital rights management, and server side game playing with internet radio services, to be missed much by myself personally.

But now, the Internet itself is at stake, and I really think you folks at the FCC should quit "playing ball" or "playing footsie" with the lobbyists and industry types in Washington, DC, and begin thinking about folks like me out here in the land of America at large, who benefit tremendously right now, every day, in so many ways, from the availability and free access to the Internet in so many ways, it is difficult to catalog them all for you.

For myself, the Internet is a far more fundamental tool in my life today, than that cellphone that Sprint and Tandy/Radio Shack sold me several years ago, and then charged me outlandish monthly bills to

use. I could go on about that "we own your cell phone" experience, but suffice to say here, that I plug in my cell phone occasionally, watch it light up, and then cannot use it for anything, because Sprint has been so unaccommodating and ruthless in their rapacious billing practices against me, their customer (very, very similar to the treatment I received with my home telephone service, years ago, when I moved over for awhile to first, AT&T, then Comcast, and later that Western telephone company, where the Chief Executive got into serious criminal trouble, not Bernie of MCI, but an Italian-American guy at a Colorado-based phone service company.) I am back with Verizon, whose name, Verizon, and logo and ad campaign and sister company's name: Genuity, I personally invented or coined years ago, while typesetting the financials that created these two, brand new telephone companies at that time) and I know that I do not want Verizon (legacy NYNEX and New England Telephone and Ma Bell) put in charge of my Internet or my Internet experience or access.)

Even while I access the Internet with my Earthlink/Covad Communications service via Verizon lines here in Manchester, New Hampshire, Verizon is lobbying you and other governmental entities in Washington, DC, against my personal interests in this matter, and in favor of zooming the fees my service providers pay to provide my service by way of their local lines to their switching facility.

Also, Verizon recently sold their phone lines in Northern New England to a different company, which means I will not have access to their FIOS services anytime soon.

Also, Verizon keeps soliciting me with low ball offers for DSL service that would entice me to switch out of Earthlink/Covad Communications, and into Verizon provision of service. This is not in my interest, and they know it. They are sneaky, and their interests are by no means my interests, or even minimally cognizant or respectful of my interests in the matter.

Why would you listen to them, and not to me? I am 300 million fellow American Citizens strong. I am the United States, and the United States government, as a matter of fact.

As such, I am ordering you to keep this letter and my express and inchoate (unexpressed) interests in your minds and in your hearts, as you consider this matter of corporate governmental tinkering with what I take and use everyday in my life today, as I see fit.

Needless to say, this issue is quite important to me. I do not want to have to see you make a mistake, and then have to assert myself to fix some god awful mistake you have made.

If it ain't broke, don't "fix" it, is maybe a good, old-fashioned, Harry Truman style take on this, that I hope you will take to heart today.

Thank you for your service to myself and to the Nation.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Del Camp
174 Brook Street
Apt. 4, 3rd FLR
Manchester, NH 03104-3715

Tele: (603) 647-8580

E-Mail: publisher_man@earthlink.net and mdelcamp@yahoo.com

Online Resumes: <http://www.retiredbrains.com/MDeICamp> and
<http://www.MediaBistro.com/resumes/MichaelDelCamp11>

IM: mdelcamp on Yahoo, and MichaelBernard1 on MS Messenger.